

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COM-02
DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-06 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02
SS-15 STR-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01
HA-05 AGR-01 /149 W
-----035554 200054Z /15

P 200033Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0524
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

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EO 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, ENRG, SHUM, GT, MX
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MEETING WITH
GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MEETING WITH
GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ROMEO LUCAS PRODUCED ENDORSEMENT OF
COOPERATION WITH NICARAGUA, AFFIRMATION THAT GUATEMALAN
MIGRATORY WORKERS WILL RECEIVE GOOD TREATMENT AND ADEQUATE
SALARIES IN MEXICO--A PROBABLE PRELUDE TO A SIMILAR LOPEZ
PORTILLO DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AND MEXICAN AGREE-
MENT TO HELP RESOLVE GUATEMALA'S ENERGY AND COMMERCIAL
PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO MET WITH GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT
GENERAL FERNANDO ROMEO LUCAS GARCIA FOR ABOUT ONE AND ONE-
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HALF HOURS, SEPT 18, IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF CHIAPAS DURING
INAUGURATION CEREMONIES FOR NEW MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT-FLY
BIOLOGICAL-CONTROL FACILITIES. AMBASSADOR LUCEY ACCOM-
PANIED PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO DURING THE CEREMONIES
OPENING THE PARTIALLY AMERICAN-DONATED FACILITIES.

3. IN A JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED TO THE PRESS, THE MEXICAN

AND GUATEMALAN PRESIDENTS, INTER ALIA, AGREED TO "CONTINUE COLLABORATING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE FRATERNAL NICARAGUAN PEOPLE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THEIR COUNTRY." (BEFORE THE MEXICAN-GUATEMALAN JOINT ENDORSEMENT OF CONTINUED NICARAGUAN ASSISTANCE CAME TO LIGHT, THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, SEPT 18, CRITICIZED THE LOPEZ PORTILLO-ROMEO LUCAS MEETING AS "INOPPORTUNE AND INCONVENIENT" AND SAID THAT MEXICO SHOULD SEEK TO ISOLATE THE ROMEO LUCAS REGIME ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY.)

4. IN ADDITION TO NICARAGUA, THE JOINTPRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION EXPRESSED AGREEMENT ON INSTITUTION OF MEASURES TO SECURE "JUST AND ADEQUATE TREATMENT AND SALARIES" FOR GUATEMALAN MIGRATORY WORKERS CONTRACTED TO WORK ON MEXICAN FARMS. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOM WISHES TO PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER BEFORE PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO MAKES HIS PLANNED DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WORKERS IN THE U.S. SEE MEXICO 16120 NOTAL.)

5. PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO ALSO AGREED TO SEEK TO HELP RESOLVE GUATEMALA'S ENERGY PROBLEMS EITHER THROUGH A FUTURE WORLD PROGRAM (PRESUMABLY JLP'S EXPECTED SEPT 27 PROPOSAL AT UNGA) OR THROUGH A BILATERAL SOLUTION THAT PROVIDES "MUTUAL BENEFIT." LOPEZ PORTILLO ALSO AGREED TO LOOK FOR MECHANISMS TO HELP REDUCE GUATEMALA'S BILATERAL TRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFICIT WITH MEXICO.

6. THE JOINT DECLARATION ALSO ENDORSED INCREASED AGRICULTURAL COLLABORATION, JOINT STUDY AND EXPLOITATION OF BORDER RIVERS, THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (A PRESUMED SOP TO MEXICAN CRITICS OF THE ROMEO LUCAS REGIME), THE NIEO, SELA, AND THE PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. (COMMENT: THE MEXICAN LEFT WILL PROBABLY CLAIM THAT THE NONINTERFERENCE PLEDGE GIVES AID AND COMFORT TO ROMEO LUCAS.)

7. COMMENT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MEETING WITH ROMEO LUCAS IS PART OF MEXICO'S MORE ACTIVE POLICY IN RECENT MONTHS TOWARD CENTRAL AMERICA. JLP'S CONTACT WITH THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY REGIME, DESPITE EXPECTED LEFTIST BRICKBATS, ILLUSTRATES GOM'S DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE A MODERATE EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION--BOTH BY PROVIDING AID TO THE LEFTIST NICARAGUAN REGIME AND OFFERING ECONOMIC INCENTIVES TO THE RIGHTIST GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT (PRESUMABLY, AMONG OTHER PURPOSES, TO ENCOURAGE GUATEMALAN-NICARAGUAN DETENTE AND REDUCTION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN POLARIZATION OVER THE NICARAGUAN ISSUE). THE MEXICAN COMMU-

NISTS' QUICK CONDEMNATION OF THE MEETING REVEALS LEFTIST
CONCERN HERE THAT, DESPITE GOM AID TO NICARAGUA, THE JLP
ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO HEAD OFF RADICAL CHANGE IN
CENTRAL AMERICA. (DRAFTED BY JON GLASSMAN.) LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 sep 1979
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1979MEXICO16226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D790429-0419
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1979/newtext/t19790941/aaaabgwp.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eef75751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1449926
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MEETING WITH GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, ENRG, SHUM, GT, MX, (LOPEZ PORTILLO Y PACHECO, JOSE), (LUCAS GARCIA, FERNANDO ROMEO)
To: STATE GUATEMALA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eef75751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014